



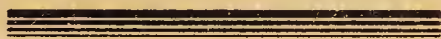
HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For Year Ended 31st December, 1942.



HORWICH:

FLETCHER, PRINTER, LONGWORTH ROAD.



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Public Health Officers of the Authority.



Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and Artificial Light Clinics :

J. S. Sewell, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., (M.R. San. I.).

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector—C. Coop, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary and Meat Inspector—

F. G. V. Rumsey, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors :

Miss A. Alderson, C.M.B. State Registered Nurse.

Miss H. Bateson, C.M.B. "Health Visitor's Certificate).

Clerks :

Miss P. Turner.

Miss E. Farnworth.

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year Ending 31st, December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Horwich Urban District Council.

" Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 35th Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1942.

The Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the period of the war, and he is satisfied that while an entire discontinuance of annual reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government, the Report might without disadvantage be materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely, and those which should be retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible. Except in the case of items for which full particulars are required, the Report should be limited to a record of important alterations, improvements or developments which have taken place during the year.

The variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors and the preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions. The death rate recorded hereafter will therefore be uncorrected.

Accordingly the present Report, as last year, will be considerably shortened as compared with previous years. Full details, however, have been kept of all activities, and members requiring further information can obtain it upon application to the Department.

A perusal of the figures in the body of the Report will show that the general health of the inhabitants has been maintained in spite of war conditions.

I am greatly indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Health Visitors, and my other fellow officials and their staffs for their co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. Sewell

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres), 3254.

Population, Census 1931, 15680. Estimated 1942, 14880.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942),
according to Rate Books, 4900.

Rateable Value, £75,180.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £302.

Social Conditions:—There appears to be further improvement in the social conditions.

Vital Statistics.—

The population of the Urban District of Horwich for mid 1942 as estimated by the Registrar General is 14880. The rates are calculated on 14880.

	Total.	Males	Females.
Births (legitimate)	265	127	138
Births (illegitimate)	7	3	4
Total.....	272	130	142

Birth Rate 18·3 per 1,000.

Still Births	5	2	3
--------------------	---	---	---

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births, 18.

Deaths	205	116	89
--------------	-----	-----	----

Crude Death Rate 13·8 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis 1.

Deaths from other Maternal causes nil.

Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 3·61.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...				45
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...				286
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	..	...	...	29
Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	1.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...			...	4
Deaths from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	0.4

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various diseases during the year 1942 :

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	116	89
<hr/>		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	1
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
Influenza	0	0
Measles	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0	0
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	0	0

Cancer of Uterus	0	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus... ..	2	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2
Cancer of Breast	0	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	10	8
Diabetes	0	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	11	10
Heart Disease	32	24
Other diseases of Circulatory System	3	2
Bronchitis	2	6
Pneumonia... ..	5	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	2	2
Appendicitis	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases...	2	0
Nephritis	5	5
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	0	1
Other Maternal Causes ...	0	0
Premature Birth	2	1
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	4	1
Suicide	0	2
Road Traffic accidents ...	2	1
Other violent causes ...	3	0
All other causes ...	16	11
<hr/>		
Deaths of infants under 1 year	10	4
Legitimate... ..	8	4
Illegitimate	2	0
<hr/>		
Total Live Births	130	142
Legitimate... ..	127	138
Illegitimate	3	4
<hr/>		
Total Stillbirths	2	3
Legitimate... ..	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0
Population... ..		14,880.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1942.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

† These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births :				
Live	15·8 †	17·3	18·4	14·0
Still	0·54 †	0·66	0·62	0·48
Deaths :				
All Causes	11·6 †	13·3	12·1	13·9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers }	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles... ..	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01
Scarlet fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·04
Diphtheria	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·02
Influenza	0·09	0·09	0·10	0·07
Notifications :				
Typhoid fever... ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·02
Paratyphoid fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2·19	2·49	2·34	1·86
Diphtheria	1·05	1·35	0·91	0·76
Erysipelas	0·30	0·36	0·26	0·43
Pneumonia	1·07	1·30	0·94	0·94
Cerebro Spinal fever	0·14	0·17	0·12	0·15
Whooping Cough	1·73	1·97	1·58	2·72
Measles... ..	7·46	9·27	7·39	8·62
Rates per 1000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	49	59	46	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5·2	7·5	4·8	8·6
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion):				
Puerperal Infection	0·42	NOT AVAILABLE		
Others	1·59			
Total	2·01			
Notifications.				
Puerperal fever	12·61	15·94	10·80	{ 3·10
Puerperal pyrexia				

‡ Including Puerperal Fever.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Nursing in the Home.*—(a) *General.*—No change.
(b).—*Infectious Diseases.*—No change.
2. *Midwives.*—No change.
3. *Laboratory Facilities.*—No change.
4. *Legislation in Force.*—No change.
5. *Hospitals.*—No change. Townley's hospital is being increasingly used for the treatment of Maternity cases. During the year 53 Maternity cases were admitted to this hospital.
6. *Maternity and Nursing Homes.*—The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts and Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.
7. Apart from the arrangements with the Townley's Hospital there is no provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.
8. *Ambulance facilities.*—These are adequate. 583 cases have been dealt with during the year. Total mileage is 6494.
9. *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*—No change. The Centre in addition to its ordinary activities is still being used as a First Aid Post.

During the year 6 children of school age were referred by the School Medical Officer for Artificial Light Treatment. 103 exposures were given. In addition 14 children between the ages of 0—5 received 188 exposures.

10. *Maternal Mortality.*—Medical Officers of the County Council investigate cases of puerperal fever and maternal deaths. Dr. R. W. Beesley and Dr. J. Scott, of Bolton, act as Consultants in cases of Puerperal Sepsis and Puerperal Pyrexia, also as Consultants at the Ante-natal Clinics. Cases are also referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Townley's Hospital where X-ray photographs can be taken.

Close co-operation is maintained with the midwives and doctors in the town and notes of the findings at the Centre are sent to them. The Midwives bring or send their cases to the clinic for examination. 72·18 per cent of expectant mothers attended the ante-natal clinic during the year.

11. *Health Visiting of Children, 1 to 5 years.*—This is included under the duties of the two Health Visitors.

12. *Child Life Protection.*—Under the Acts the two Health Visitors have been appointed the executive officers, but at present there are no cases requiring their attention.

13. *Orthopaedic Treatment.*—The County Council hold a monthly Clinic for the prevention, treatment, and after care of crippling conditions. The County nurses follow up the cases during the interval and see that the treatment advised is carried out. 8 Cases were referred.

The Horwich Council have an arrangement with the County Council to attend children from 0-5 years of age sent to them. This arrangement includes, if necessary, treatment in Biddulph Hospital.

14. *Ophthalmic Treatment.*—The Council have made arrangements with the County Council's Ophthalmic Clinic for the treatment of cases of eye defect discovered in children under 5 years of age. 21 Cases were referred.

15. *Dental Treatment.*—A similar arrangement with the County Council as for Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic. 15 Cases were referred.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources are Moorland and Pumping Station. The filtration scheme is in operation and continues to give general satisfaction. During the year two bacteriological examinations of the water were made. Details of the analyses are omitted this year for the sake of brevity. Copies of the analyses can be inspected in the Department.

Rivers and Streams.—No pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No important extensions made during the year.

Closet Accommodation:—There are 4413 Fresh Water Closets, 1025 Waste Water Closets, 56 Pail Closets and 13 Privy Middens now existing in the district. During the year, 6 waste water closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

Public Cleansing.—During the year, 2340 privies, ashpits and pails, and 202,400 dustbins have been emptied by the Council's workmen, making approximately 4,199 tons of refuse removed.

Collection and Disposal.—Dry refuse is collected from dustbins into dustless low loading refuse removal motor vehicles. Refuse is conveyed to Red Moss Tip and disposed of by means of Controlled Tipping. A scheme is in operation for the salvaging of clean waste paper, metals, bones, rags, kitchen waste, etc.

The amount of salvaged material sold during the year totalled 313 tons, 13 cwts., 2 qrs.

Earth closets, privies and cesspools.—Contents emptied into vehicle specially adapted for the purpose. Contents removed and disposed of on farm land. All earth closets, privies and cesspools after emptying are cleansed and purified with a disinfectant.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area:—The following is a classified statement of the number of inspections and re-inspections made during 1942 :

Houses and other premises	...	...	1701
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, etc..			28
Shops	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	8
Waterworks	...	...	2
Refuse Collection, Salvage, etc.	...		457
Factories with mechanical power	...		7
Factories without mechanical power	...		—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	173
Market	...	...	61

Factories and Workshops.—During the year Factories and Workshops in the district have been visited and the defects found have been remedied. There was no outwork found to be carried on in unwholesome premises.

During the year 282 informal notices have been served. 589 defects or nuisances were found to have been abated, 90 not yet abated.

The following is a summary of the abated nuisances and the necessary actions to remedy them :

Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
House roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Repairs to windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective spouting and rain water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
House walls re-plastered...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
House doors and floors repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Repairs to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
General repairs (fireranges, etc.)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

Shops and Offices.—Adequate ventilation and a reasonable temperature have been insisted on. Exemption certificates have been granted where it has been found impracticable to provide sanitary conveniences.

Camping Sites.—There are no camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.—The emission of grit from a factory chimney has been dealt with satisfactorily.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year seven privately owned houses were found to be bug infested. Mouldings and wooden skirtings were removed and the houses fumigated with Zaldecide. Before tenants are removed to Council houses their belongings are inspected. All houses visited are examined and general cleanliness insisted upon.

*Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by
Byelaws and Regulations.*—

Bakehouses :—29 in number ; condition satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses :—Total 2 ; 2 licensed.

Supervision is also maintained over Fish and Chip, Ice Cream and other premises where Food is prepared. These premises have been registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.—Abolition of waste water closets.

Schools :—Continue in a sanitary condition. Co-operation is closely maintained with the School Medical Officer, School Attendance Officer and the teaching staff.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year -

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under b)	...	...	...	...	...	2
(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts.						
(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	—

The general housing conditions in the district remain fair. The principal defects found are dampness of walls, defective roofs etc.

There is a difficulty in obtaining material and labour for repairs.

Since the war a large number of families have moved into the district and are living in rooms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 26 cowkeepers within the district and approximately 410 cows.

There are 36 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers).

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries examines the cows clinically every quarter. Samples of milk are taken to be examined for tubercle bacilli.

Inspection of the farms, dairies and milkshops is carried out in order to fulfil the requirements of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Meat and other Foods.—There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

During 1942 the following meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :

Meat	280 lbs.
Ham and Bacon	52 lbs.
Butter	6 lbs.
Apples	37 lbs.
Tinned Meats	430 lbs
Tinned Fish	8 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	8 lbs.
Tinned Milk	10 lbs.
<hr/>	
Total ...	831 lbs.
<hr/>	

Adulteration, etc.—No action taken.

Nutrition.—The importance of proper nutrition is stressed at the Maternity and Child Welfare clinics.

Shell-Fish.—There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

250 cases of Measles occurred during the year with one death.

72 cases of Scarlet Fever and 51 cases of Diphtheria were notified. These two diseases were chiefly spread by carriers and missed mild cases. The Diphtheria cases were of a mild type especially amongst the immunised. The one death was amongst the unimmunised. Supervision has been maintained over cases discharged from hospital with the view of avoiding "return" cases.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Public Hall and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During 1942 the extensive drive to obtain immunisation against Diphtheria of as many children as possible was continued. Again co-operation and great help was obtained from the Council, school teachers, school attendance officer, Health Visitors and the press. During the year 308 pre-school children and 298 school children were completely immunised. These figures added to those of previous years give a percentage of 76.7 of all children up to 15 years of age. Since the advent of 1943 this percentage has been raised to 84 per cent in the case of pre-school children and 82 per cent of school children. Children under 8 years of age were given two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxin. Those over 8 were given three doses of Toxin Antitoxin Floccules. No serious reactions have occurred. No. of children completely immunised during the year:

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|
| (1) | pre-school children | 308 | Prophylactics used | A.P.T. |
| (2) | school children | 298 | „ | A.P.T. & T.A.F. |
| (3) | adults... | ... | nil | nil. |

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the pathological laboratory of the University of Manchester for examination. During 1942, 56 swabs were examined for Diphtheria, 19 of which were positive. 3 examinations of Sputa were made for Tubercle Bacilli, and 1 was reported positive. 1 specimen of Faeces was examined for organisms of the Typhoid group which proved to be negative.

No use has yet been made of the Schick and Dick tests.

No Vaccinations have been performed under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

Measles and Whooping Cough are now compulsorily notifiable. These diseases were previously notifiable under a local order.

There are no arrangements in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Premises are disinfected with Formaldehyde and Sulphur. Infected articles and bedding are taken to Fall Birch Hospital for steam disinfection.

Scabies.—Previous to the reduction of staff at the First Aid Post it was found possible to treat a few cases of Scabies at the Cleansing Station attached to the Post. This is not now possible. Home treatment of the disease is supervised by the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors. Recent researches by Mellanby and others have shewn that the disinfection of bedding and clothes is not as important as was formerly supposed. It is our experience in Horwich that the important factor in treatment is to insist that every member of an infected household should obtain efficient treatment simultaneously. Otherwise a neglected member will re-infect the whole household.

Venereal Diseases.—Propaganda leaflets and posters have been issued.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1942.

Disease	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total at all ages	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox															
Scarlet Fever.....		1	4	2	10	39	14	1	1				72	67	1
Diphtheria			2	1	6	19	9	5	7	2			51	51	1
Para-Typhoid															
Puerperal Pyrexia.....									2				2	1	1
Pneumonia.....			1	1		1	2	1	2	2	6	2	18	5	9
Erysipelas											2	2	4	2	
Ophthalmia Neon.....															
Encephalitis Lethargica...															
Cerebro Spinal Fever															
Acute Polio-encephalitis...															
Acute Poliomyelitis															
Chicken Pox	1	5	2	3	8	40	4	1					64		
Measles, excluding German Measles	7	12	26	53	50	99		1		2			250		1
Whooping Cough	1	4	3	7	3	4							22		
German Measles.....															
Totals	9	22	38	67	77	202	29	9	12	6	8	4	483	126	13

Prevention of Blindness.

The health visitors give careful attention to all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and carry out the treatment themselves.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified.	Treated at Home.	in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Notifications :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sex.	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upw'ds.	Total
Males				1		1	2	2	1			7
Females					1	2	1					4

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males	1	1	2									4
Females			1	1		1			1		1	5

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males							1		1	1		3
Females							1					1

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Males		1										1
Females		1										1

There was one non-notified fatal case of tuberculosis.

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The notification of Tuberculosis in this area is efficient. It is the general practice to refer all doubtful cases to the Tuberculosis Officers.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The ante-natal activities continue. There is now very little difficulty in inducing the mothers to take advantage of the facilities provided. 72.18% of all mothers attended the Clinic during the year. The following conditions found deserve notice :

Albuminuria and High Blood Pressure	...	22
Cæsarian Section	... ..	5
Dental decay	... ..	2
Discharges	... ..	2
Glycosuria	... ..	1
Pyelitis	... ..	1
Malpresentations	... ..	5
Previous Abnormal Labour	... ..	15
Primipara	... ..	76
Prolapse	... ..	2
Varicose Veins	... ..	2
Venereal Disease	... ..	2

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department:

1. Number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors :

(a) To expectant mothers	... ..	First visits	15
		Total visits	55
(b) To children under 1 year of age	...	First visits	267
		Total visits	1809
(c) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years...	.. ...	Total visits	1251

2. (a) Total number of attendances at the Centre during the year :

(i) By children under 1 year of age	... ..	3105
(ii) By children between the ages of 1 & 5 yrs.		687
(b) Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time during the year :		
(i) Children under 1 year of age	... ..	191
(ii) Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years		17

- (c) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | 168 |
| (ii) Over 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | 222 |
- (d) Percentage of total notified live births represented by the number in (b) (i)
- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | 68.70 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

3. Ante-natal clinics:

- (a) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers during the year
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 779 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
- (b) Total number of expectant mothers who attended at the clinic during the year
- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | 205 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
- (c) Percentage of total notified births represented by the number in (b)
- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | 72.18 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|

4. Sunlight Clinic :

- (a) Children between the ages of 0 and 5 given exposures 14
- (b) Total number of exposures
- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | ... | 188 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
- (c) Total number of school children given exposures 6
- (d) Total number of exposures given
- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| ... | ... | 103 |
|-----|-----|-----|

				Mothers.	Children.
5.	Cases referred to Dental Clinic			...	11
	„	„	Ophthalmic Clinic..	—	...
	„	„	Orthopædic Clinic...	—	...

